

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 4 – 6 are pending and under consideration in the above-identified application.

In the Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 4 – 6 were rejected.

In this Amendment, Claim 1 is amended. No new matter has been introduced as a result of this Amendment.

Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, and 4 – 6 remain at issue.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuda et al. (“Tsuda”) (U.S. Patent No. 5,936,688) in view of Nakamura et al. (“Nakamura”) (U.S. Patent No. 5,847,789). Although Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the invention and remove any ambiguities that may have been at the basis of this claim rejection.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of manufacturing a diffusing reflector. The method comprises the processes of preparing a substrate, forming a first resin film having photosensitivity on said substrate, providing gathering of pillar-shaped bodies isolated from each other through patterning of said resin film with photolithography, deforming gently said pillar-shaped bodies through a reflow, forming an uneven surface layer having the maximum inclination angle of under 12⁰ by coating *with a thin layer of a second resin* said gently deformed pillar-shaped bodies and covering with the second resin open flat spaces located between said isolated pillar-shaped bodies to form one concave gap between two adjacent isolated pillar-shaped bodies *so that upper end portions of said two adjacent isolated pillar-shaped bodies are higher than a lower end portion of said one concave gap in the thickness direction of the diffusing reflector*, thereby minimizing an occurrence of a flat surface area on said substrate.

Applicants’ FIGs. 1A – 1E illustrate one embodiment using principles of Applicants’ claimed invention. The embodiment of FIG. 1E comprises a diffusing reflector which includes a substrate 2, a gathering of deformed pillar-shaped bodies 11, a resin layer 12 thinly coating the deformed pillar-shaped bodies 11 and covering the flat openings 2a to form concave gaps

between adjacent deformed pillar-shaped bodies 11. As such, flat surface areas 2a are eliminated from the uneven surface layer formed on the substrate, thereby removing any potential generation of a mirror-surface reflection. In addition, due to the thin coating of the deformed pillar-shaped bodies, upper end portions of the two adjacent isolated pillar-shaped bodies are higher than a lower end portion of the corresponding concave gap in the thickness direction of the diffusing reflector.

This is clearly unlike Tsuda and Nakamura. The Examiner acknowledges that Tsuda does not disclose a concave gap between two adjacent pillar-shaped bodies, but asserts that Nakamura allegedly does.

However, Nakamura fails to teach or suggest that upper end portions of two adjacent isolated pillar-shaped bodies are higher than a lower end portion of the corresponding concave gap in the thickness direction of the diffusing reflector. In fact, as shown in FIGs. 1, and 4(5) of Nakamura, upper end portions of pillar-shaped bodies 23 and 24 are lower than a lower end portion of the corresponding concave gap of the second resin 6 in the thickness direction of the diffusing reflector. Moreover, in Nakamura the uneven surface layer of the second resin 6 exceeds the maximum inclination angle of under 12⁰.

As such, Claim 1 is patentable over Tsuda and Nakamura, taken singly or in combination with each other, as are dependent Claims 2 and 4-6, for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these rejections.

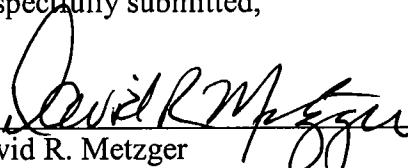
II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2, and 4 – 6 are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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